

What is claimed is

1. A transgenic mouse comprising as a translocus a YAC of about 410 Kb, wherein the YAC contains most of the human V λ genes of cluster A and all the human J λ - C λ segments in germline configuration, wherein the translocus shows high expression, and is able to compete equally with the endogenous mouse κ locus.
2. A transgenic mouse comprising as a translocus a YAC of about 410 Kb, wherein the YAC contains most of the human V λ genes of cluster A and all the human J λ - C λ segments in germline configuration, wherein the mouse has one or both endogenous Ig κ alleles disrupted, and wherein the translocus shows high expression.
3. A transgenic mouse carrying a 380 Kb region of the human immunoglobulin (Ig) λ light (L) chain locus in germline configuration, wherein the introduced translocus resides on a yeast artificial chromosome (YAC) that accommodates the most proximal V (variable gene) λ cluster - with 15 V λ genes that contribute to over 60% of λ light chains in man - and all J λ - C λ segments with the 3' region including the downstream enhancer.
4. A transgenic mouse comprising human Ig lambda genes in which the proportion of the κ and λ light chains expressed by said human lambda genes

resembles that found in humans, and exhibits relative proportions of $\leq 60\%$ κ light chains and $\geq 40\%$ λ light chains.

5. A transgenic mouse according to claim 1, wherein the mouse includes a HuIg λ YAC that accommodates a 380 Kb region of the human λ light chain locus in authentic configuration with all V λ genes of cluster A, the J λ - C λ segments and the 3' enhancer.
6. A transgenic mouse according to claim 5, wherein the HuIg λ YAC is shown in Figure 1.
7. A method for producing a transgenic mouse according to claim 1, comprising:
 - (a) introducing a HuIg λ YAC into murine embryonic stems cells; and
 - (b) deriving a transgenic mouse from the cells of step (a).
8. The method of claim 7, wherein a HuIg λ YAC of about 410Kb that can accommodate a 380 Kb region (V λ - JC λ) of the human λ light chain locus with V, J and C genes in germline configuration is introduced into said stem cells.
9. The method according to claim 7 wherein two copies of the neomycin resistance gene (NEO^r) are site-specifically integrated into the ampicillin gene on the left (centromeric) YAC arm in order to permit selection.